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FACT SHEET

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Focusing On Clean Clothes . . .

BLEACHES AND GERM KILLERS

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fabrics and finishes might be damaged or discolored by chlorine bleaches. Read the label on clothes and on the bottle or box of bleach before you use bleach on any fabric. Iron deposits in water sometimes make yellow stains on clothes. Chlorine bleach makes some yellow stains worse and may make holes in the fabric. *Caution:* Do not use chlorine bleach on silk, wool, spandex stretch fabrics, blends of these fibers or fabrics with certain dyes and finishes. (Read the labels and hang-tags of clothes when you buy them and save these to help you remember how to care for the fabrics.)

Some brands of chlorine bleach:

- | <i>Liquid</i> | <i>Powder</i> |
|----------------|---------------|
| • Clorox | • Action |
| • Hilex | • Hilex |
| • Purex | • Purex |
| • Texize | • Stardust |
| • White Sail | • Trey |
| • Fleecy White | |

Use on white and colorfast cotton, linens, white nylon, dacron and orlon items including:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| • Dish towels | • T-shirts and underwear |
| • Sheets | • Bath towels |
| • Pillow cases | • Fast color prints |
| • White socks | • Tablecloths |

Why Use Bleaches?

Bleaches help keep white clothes white and help remove many stains. Measure bleaches carefully. Too much bleach will damage your clothes.

How To Use Chlorine Bleaches

Most chlorine bleaches are liquid. They are the cheapest to buy. They kill germs, too. Some

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How To Use Chlorine Bleaches

Read directions, follow them, measure carefully and rinse thoroughly after bleaching. For most top-loading washing machines, do not use more than one cup of liquid chlorine bleach. If your machine is extra large, you can use $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups of bleach. For front loading machines, do not use more than a half cup. If you wash clothes by hand, do not use more than a tablespoon of bleach in a gallon of water.

Add chlorine bleach to the soapy water and mix before putting clothes into the washing ma-

chine. If this is not possible in your machine, mix the bleach with at least four times as much water as bleach before you add it to the water and the clothes in the washer. Otherwise it may make holes in your clothes. Do not use bleach in the rinse water.

Rinse the clothes well to remove the bleach. Your clothes will wear out faster if the bleach is not all washed out.

Oxygen Bleaches (Peroxy)

Most oxygen bleaches are powders. You can use them on any clothes that need bleaching. They are slower acting and do not have to be mixed with water before using. Look for the words "Safe for all fabrics."

Some brands of oxygen bleach include:

- Beads O' Bleach
- A-Penn
- Lestare
- Snowy
- Du-rite
- Dexol

Use oxygen bleaches on:

- All fabrics and finishes
- Colored clothes

How to use:

Read and follow the directions on the package. Measure accurately and add bleach to the wash water. Oxygen bleaches work best in hot water. Rinse the clothes well.

Killing Germs on Clothes

Boiling clothes or hanging them in the sunshine were once the common ways to kill germs. These ways were used especially when there was sickness in the family. But with modern fabrics, finishes and washing methods, you may need other ways to kill germs.

Liquid chlorine bleaches that contain 5.25 percent sodium hypochlorite will kill germs. But they are not safe for all fabrics.

You can use *quaternary*, *pine oil* or *phenolic disinfectants* safely on any fabrics you are washing. Pine oil disinfectants must contain at least 80 percent pine oil to kill germs.

Read and follow the directions on the bottle. To kill germs, each disinfectant must be used in a special way.

What To Use To Kill Germs

Quaternary disinfectants (Quats)

CO-OP Sanitizer available in certain supermarkets. Roccal available from janitor, dairy and poultry supply houses.

Pine oil disinfectants

Fyne Pyne
Fyne Tex
King Pine
Pine-O-Pine
White Cap

Available in grocery stores

Liquid chlorine bleaches

Clorox King Bleach (liquid) Purex
Available in grocery stores

Phenolic disinfectants

Al Pine Pine-Sol
Available in grocery stores

When there is sickness in your family, use one of these germ killers in your wash whether you wash at home or at the washateria.

These trade names are used only to help you know what to look for. Many companies also make and sell germ killers and bleaches. The Texas Agricultural Extension Service does not recommend one kind more than another.

References

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